

100 YEARS OF CONSERVATION AND PUBLIC SERVICE ON THE MEDICINE BOW

2002 marks the 100th year of Forest Service conservation and public service for the Medicine Bow! The Medicine Bow has had a long and colorful history.

The Medicine Bow Forest Reserve was established on May 22, 1902. The original boundary of the forest reserve was about two million acres. The east boundary was the Laramie RD. The west boundary was the Brush Creek RD. The north boundary was just south of the present one. And, the south boundary extended south into Colorado to Estes Park, and included part of the Parks RD and the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests.

In 1908, the forest reserve was divided into two National Forests. The Colorado portion became the Medicine Bow National Forest, and the Wyoming portion became the Cheyenne National Forest.

In 1910, the Forests went through another name change. In Colorado, the Medicine Bow NF was renamed the Colorado NF. In Wyoming, the Cheyenne NF was renamed the Medicine Bow NF.

In 1924 some lands within the Medicine Bow were eliminated and the Sheep Mountain unit was added. There were then four ranger districts—Centennial, Fox Park, Bow River, and Brush Creek.

The Hayden Division of the Medicine Bow NF was originally the Sierra Madre Forest Reserve established in 1906. This forest reserve also had a complicated history. In 1908 the Sierra Madre Forest Reserve and Park Range Reserve (now part of the Routt NF) combined to form the Hayden NF. In 1929 Herbert Hoover dismantled the Hayden NF. The Colorado portion became the Routt NF and the Wyoming portion was added to the Medicine Bow National Forest as the Hayden Division, later the Hayden RD.

What about Pole Mountain? Pole Mountain was established in 1900 as part of the Crow Creek Forest Reserve. In 1903, by Executive Order, the land was transferred to the War Dept as the Fort D.A. Russell Target and Maneuver Reservation. In 1905, the Crow Creek Reserve became part of the Cheyenne Forest Reserve and later became part of the Medicine Bow NF in 1910. However, in 1910, the War Dept took complete control of Pole Mountain. In 1925, Pole Mountain was transferred back to the Forest Service, and in 1961 all military interest in the Pole Mountain terminated.

The Laramie Peak unit of the Medicine Bow National Forest was added in 1935.

Originally in the early 1900's, the Forest Service was the Bureau of Forestry in the Dept. of Interior. In 1905 the Forest Service was transferred to the Dept of Agriculture while the Medicine Bow Forest Reserve was under the administration of the first forest supervisor, Lewis G. Davis, who served from 1903 to 1907.

To celebrate our anniversary and our long history, the large conference room in the Supervisor's Office will further be known as the Lewis G. Davis Conference Room. A plaque is being made to dedicate this gathering place in honor of our first forest supervisor.